anywhere in the country (except A&N Islands), including Shimla district of Himachal Pradesh, with the help of small sized dish receiver units. New transmitters for expansion of terrestrial coverage are now not envisaged to be set up.

Linking Rajkot Doordarshan with satellite

1340. SHRI VIJAYKUMAR RUPANI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

when the Rajkot Doordarshan will be linked up with satellite to allow live telecast of State-wise programmes,

what is the proposal to broadcast Regional News for Saurashtra through All India Radio and Doordarshan Kendra of Rajkot; and

whether Government has prepared any proposal to establish F.M. Radio and expand Vividh Bharati Saurashtra and Kutch Region?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) Prasar Bharati have informed that at present there is no scheme to link Doordarshan Kendra, Rajkot with the various transmitters in Gujarat which are linked to Doordarshan Kendras, Delhi and Ahmedabad through satellite for relay of National and Regional service programmes respectively.

(b) Setting up of one new Regional News Unit at All India Radio, Rajkot for Saurashtra Region in Gujarat is a part of the draft Eleventh Plan of AIR.

As far as Doordarshan is concerned, at present there is no such proposal to start Regional news for Saurashtra through Doordarshan Kendra, Rajkot.

(c) The following FM Stations of AIR are functional in Gujarat:

(i)	Ahmedabad	10 KV FM (Vividh Bharati)
(ii)	Godhra	6 KW FM
(iii)	Rajkot	10 KW FM (Vividh Bharati)
(iv)	Surat	6 KW FM (Vividh Bharati)
(v)	Vadodra	10 KW FM (Exclusive Vividh Bharati)

Replacement of 6 KW FM transmitter'by 10 KW FM transmitter at Surat and 10 KW FM transmitter with receiving and play back facilities at Junagarh, schemes of Tenth Plan, are part of expansion and improvement of FM signals. 20 KW FM transmitter on TV Tower at Bhuj and 10 KW FM transmitter on TV Tower at Radhanpur is a part of draft Eleventh Plan.

Low viewership/listenership of DD/AIR

1341. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that the number of viewers/listeners of Doordarshan and AIR specifically All India Radio, is very less when compared to the large network of DD and AIR Stations and the huge amount of public money spent on them;

if so, the details thereof for the last three years and the steps taken during the period to increase the viewership/listenership of Doordarshan and AIR;

whether there is any proposal to reduce the number of All India Radio Stations by setting up one powerful station for each State and thereby saving huge expenditure; and

if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. According to the All India Radio Audience Survey conducted during 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2006-07, AIR listenership was 310 million, 340 million and 357 million respectively. This clearly indicates increasing trend of listenership/ listeners of AIR. Number of viewers of Doordarshan are adequate in view of the large Doordarshan Network and the amount of public money spent on it. Number of Doordarshan viewers for the last three years as per the study report of Indian Readership Survey is as under:

Year	DDI National	DD News
2007	95934000	59995000
2006	92431000	57982000
2005	89356000	54715000

(c) and (d) Prasar Bharati have informed that there is no such proposal to reduce the number of AIR Stations by setting up one powerful Station for each State and thereby saving huge expenditure. Power consumption of a single powerful Station is much more than that required by smaller Stations to cover the populated area.

Low earning of labourers in India

1342. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the **Minister of** LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

whether it is a fact that the despite more and more investment in Asia (including India) and Pacific zone, unemployment is increasing in our country;

whether it is fact that more than 100 million labourers earn less than 2 dollars a day and one-third of them are compelled to work for less than a dollar a day;

if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

the steps Government is contemplating to address the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES): (a) As per National Sample Survey Organisation 61 st round Survey Report-2004-05, unemployment rate on current daily status basis has increased from 6.1% in 1993-94 to 7.3% in 1999-2000, and further to 8.35% in 2004-05. This was because the working age population grew faster than total population and labour force participation rates increased, particularly among women.

(b) and (c) The Global Employment Trends, January, 2008 published by International Labour Organisation, *inter alia,* indicated working poverty rates for South Asia, which includes India, were 33% for US$ 1 a day and 80.3% for US$ 2 a day based on preliminary estimates for 2007. This report indicates that high working poor share is mainly the result of the continuing low levels of productivity.